



For Immediate Release
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Bass, Carter, Furutani Multiple Pathways Bill Signed by the Governor

SACRAMENTO – Legislation jointly authored by Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, Assemblymember Wilmer Amina Carter, and Assemblymember Warren T. Furutani to expand multiple pathway programs in California's high schools was signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger yesterday.

Assembly Bill 2648 requires the California Department of Education, in conjunction with other state agencies, educational institutions, and a variety of stakeholders in the business and labor communities, to develop a report that explores the feasibility of establishing and expanding additional multiple pathway programs in our high schools.

Multiple pathway programs are multi-year, comprehensive high school programs that are comprised of an integrated core curriculum that meets course eligibility requirements for admission to the University of California and California State University, delivered through project-based learning methods that bring real-world context and relevance to the curriculum.

"We must prepare our students for a full range of postsecondary options," said Furutani, who chairs the Select Committee on Career Technical Education and Workforce Development. "AB 2648 recognizes this important goal and I'm pleased by the support of the Governor and our legislative leaders."

AB 2648 addresses an ongoing statewide concern that traditional high schools are not effectively preparing our students for postsecondary education and employment opportunities. In light of the escalating high school dropout rate, it is critical that our schools offer programs and curricula that engage and motivate students.

"AB 2648 puts us on the right track towards implementing a comprehensive vision for improving career technical education and workforce development, which requires maximizing our resources, enhancing coordination, and emphasizing cooperation and partnerships between diverse industries," Furutani said.

Assembly Speaker Emeritus Fabian Núñez named Furutani chair of the Select Committee on Career Technical Education and Workforce Development in February 2008 to spearhead a statewide plan to coordinate how industry, education, labor, government, and other key sectors, prepare California's workforce for an ever-changing, global economy.

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Assemblymember Warren T. Furutani (D-South Los Angeles County) represents the 55th Assembly District, which includes the cities of Carson, Harbor City and the Harbor Gateway, Lakewood, parts of Long Beach, and Wilmington.